

Message Text

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43-40

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 TAR-02 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 EURE-00 /179 W

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O R 021700Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1602

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS SECY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ, SECY OF
COMMERCE DENT

FOR ACTING SECY OF STATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN

SUBJECT: EMBARGO ON SOYBEANS AND PRODUCTS

REF: THE HAGUE 2936

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1. MIN ECON AFFAIRS LUBBERS CALLED ME TO MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS U.S. EMBARGO ON SOYBEANS, COTTONSEED AND THEIR MEALS. MINISTER RAISED SAME POINTS EARLIER RAISED WITH AG ATT AT MIN AG, I.E., NETHERLANDS POSITION AS MAJOR IMPORTER; DEPENDENCE DUTCH LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY ON CONTINUED FLOW OILSEEDS AND PROTEIN MEAL SUPPLIES; AND UNFORTUNATE POLITICAL IMPACT OF U.S. EMBARGO IN EC AND, POTENTIALLY, IN MTN.

2. MINISTER STATED, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT WISH TO WASTE TIME ON RECRIMINATIONS. HIS MAJOR PURPOSE WAS TO EMPHASIZE NETHERLANDS DEPENDENCY ON CONTINUING FLOW OF U.S. OILSEEDS AND MEALS TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT U.S. SUPPLY SITUATION MADE THIS POSSIBLE. THIS WAS MAJOR NECESSITY NOT ONLY FOR DUTCH LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY BUT ALSO BECAUSE

NETHERLANDS WAS OILSEEDS PROCESSING COUNTRY AND INDUSTRY WAS COMMITTED TO FORWARD SALES OF BOTH MEALS AND OIL.

3. WHILE HE REALIZED I WAS NOT IN A POSITION AT THIS TIME TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT, HE WISHED THE EMBASSY TO GIVE HIM THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE SIGNAL AS TO WHETHER HE AND MIN AG BROUWER SHOULD FLY TO U.S. TO DISCUSS ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE SUPPLIES. LUBBERS STATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ALLOCATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED NEGOTIABLE BY U.S.; BUT IF NETHERLANDS ALLOCATION TOO DISRUPTIVE FOR DUTCH TO LIVE WITH, BOTH HE AND MIN AG WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIGHEST U.S. AUTHORITIES.

4. MEEKER AND I MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO SPECULATE OR COMMENT ON THE CONTENT OF THE WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT ON ALLOCATIONS BEFORE IT WAS ACTUALLY MADE. I DID, HOWEVER, REFER TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS EXPRESSING REGRET OVER THE NECESSITY TO IMPOSE TEMPORARY EXPORT CONTROLS AS WELL AS HIS PRUDENT CONFIDENCE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REMOVE THEM AFTER THE NEW SOYBEAN CROP WAS HARVESTED NEXT FALL. MEEKER, IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM THE MINISTER, EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL CONFIDENCE IN THE FAIRNESS OF THE ALLOCATIVE PROCESS THAT WASHINGTON WOULD ANNOUNCE. I ADDED THAT WE SAW AN ADDITIONAL POLITICAL FACTOR, NAMELY, THAT THE U.S. WISHED TO BE HELPFUL WHEREVER IT COULD, AND AVOID HARMFUL ACTIONS, AT A TIME WHEN THE NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT WAS FACING UP TO ITS DIFFICULT RESPONSIBILITIES. LUBBERS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. UNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT.

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5. IN CONCLUDING, I STATED THAT WE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TRANSMIT THE MINISTER'S VIEWS TO WASHINGTON, AND WOULD, OF COURSE BE AT HIS DISPOSITION FOR A FURTHER MEETING AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

WE WOULD ALSO ASK FOR A PRELIMINARY REACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY LUBBERS AND MIN OF AGRIC BROUWER SHOULD THAT APPEAR DESIRABLE TO THE DUTCH.

DECON DEC 31, 1973.

TANGUY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THEHA02949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730757/aaaabqbr.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 THE HAGUE 2936
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBARGO ON SOYBEANS AND PRODUCTS
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005